

# Collembola from Hundidero-Gato Cave in Southern Spain, with the description of a new species of *Entomobrya* Rondani, 1861 (Collembola, Entomobryidae)

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## Abstract

This paper deals with some Collembola from a cave at La Sierra de Grazalema (Málaga). In total, eight species of springtails were found. Two may represent new species but there is insufficient material available to prepare full descriptions (one species in the genus *Ceratophysella*, one in *Hypogastrura*), one species (*Folsomides* cf. *ayllonensis*) is identified to species, but differences from the nominal species suggest further studies may indicate the Grazalema populations represent a distinct form, and one other is described as new to science, *Entomobrya virginiae* Arbea, **sp. nov.** The new species is characterized by no sexual dimorphism in colour pattern, 5 central macrochaetae on Abd II and 4 macrochaetae on Abd III. For the identification and description of the new species, the set of characters proposed by Jordana and Baquero (2005) was used.

## Keywords

Arthropoda, biospeleology, Entomobryidae, *Entomobrya*, taxonomy

## Introduction

The Hundidero-Gato system, within the Subbaetic Mountain range (Southern Spain), is a hydrogeological system composed by more than 10 km of galleries. This cave, located between the municipalities of Montejaque and Benaoján in the province of Málaga

(Andalusia, Spain), has two mouths: the first one is Hundidero, which acts as a sink, and the other one, which is called Gato, where the complex drains. The system harbours a wide variety of subterranean environments, including an old subterranean river course, subterranean lakes, broad chambers and galleries (Guerrero Sánchez 2015).

The information about the subterranean biology in this system is scarce and fragmented (García-López et al. 2020). The first studies were carried out in 1865 by Lucas von Heyden, a German entomologist who wanted to find blind coleopterans. Subsequently, the abbot Henri Breuil, in 1914, could see the presence of warm guano inside the cave but did not capture anyone. Years later, in the 1970s, some specific surveys were carried out by certain speleological groups, such as the GE Telefónica of Madrid, GEOS of Sevilla and the E.R.E from C.E.C. from Barcelona, among others. In 1978, a Dutch speleological group described the spider *Iberoneta nasewoa* Deeleman-Reinhold, 1984, the aquatic amphipod *Pseudoniphargus stockin* Notenboom, 1987, and the gastropod *Iberhoratia gatoa* (Boeters, 1980) (Boeters 1980; Deeleman-Reinhold 1984; Notenboom 1987). Despite the interest of many researchers throughout decades, the deepest and most extended studies did not begin until March of 2016 (Hernando and García-López 2016), which revealed a new endemic species, the troglobitic staphylinid *Phloeocharis manu* Hernando & García-López, 2016. More recently, twelve spider species have been recorded for this cave, which belong to nine families: Agelenidae, Araneidae, Dysderidae, Hahniidae, Linyphiidae, Liocranidae, Segestriidae, Tetragnathidae and Uloboridae (Barrientos et al. 2019).

There are few references on the cave-dwelling Collembola in the Subbaetic System. Only nine species have been recorded in some caves from Sierra de las Nieves, Sierra de Almirajara and Sierra de Tejeda (Arbea and Baena 2003; Arbea et al. 2011; Arbea 2012): *Ceratophysella engadinensis* (Gisin, 1949), *Deuteraphorura cebennaria* (Gisin, 1956), *Onychiurus gevorum* Arbea, 2012, *Entomobrya pazaristei* Denis, 1937, *Lepidocyrtus flexicollis* Gisin, 1965, *Pseudosinella infrequens* Gisin & Gama, 1969, *Pseudisotoma monochaeta* (Kos, 1942), *Heteromurus nitidus* (Templeton, 1835) and *Troglopedetes absoloni* Bonet, 1931. This is the first study in which a cave from the Sierra de Grazalema have been sampled for Collembola capture. The biospeleological work has been developed in the Hundidero-Gato system. A total of 597 specimens have been captured, belonging to 8 different species. Among them there is one new species, belonging to the genus *Entomobrya*.

## Material and methods

### Cave description

The Hundidero-Gato system is located in the northeast extreme of Sierra de Líbar, within the mountain range of Ronda, in the northwest of the province of Málaga. In this cave we can find three characteristic types of karstification: the first floor corresponds to a first stage, while the lower floor is always flooded; the middle floor is the most relevant as it corresponds with the speleological trek and it is the most developed.

Due to the extension of the system, we have limited the study area to the most accessible part at the entrance. The coordinates of Hundidero are 36°43'39"N, 5°14'19"W, about 558 m above the sea level. The entrance of the cave has a width of 10 m and a height of approximately 60 m, and 400 m of depth accessible on foot.

## Sampling

We used baited pitfall traps to collect invertebrates, which were placed in some areas of the cave that were susceptible to harbor fauna. For the pitfall traps we used clinical analysis cans (volume 150 ml), which were buried and filled with a modification of Turquin's liquid (Domingo-Quero and Alonso-Zarazaga 2010). The traps were baited with Majorcan sausage (cured sausage from Balearic Islands made with pork, paprika, salt and other spices) as attractant (Belda-García et al. 2014). All collected specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol.

Two areas were sampled: the entrance to the cave, which covers about 400 m from the mouth to the first lake, and the area called gallery, a ledge located after about 20 m from the lake, about 20 m in the vertical of the wall, corresponding to the deepest area that was sampled. In total, sixteen pitfall traps were placed: four in semi-darkness (twilight) and four in total darkness in the entrance area; and five traps in soil with guano and three in soil without guano in gallery. The sampling was carried out in 2016 (both the entrance and gallery) and 2018 (only the entrance), and the traps were placed in the dates that the Natural Park of Sierra de Grazallema allowed us. The traps were in the cave for one week. The entry seasons established by the Park was governed by the activity of the bats, allowing us access from mid-March to mid-April and later from mid-August to mid-November, in order to not disturb the breeding and wintering periods of the bats.

## Preparation and analysis

Some specimens were cleared in Nesbitt's fluid and were mounted in Hoyer's medium for compound microscope observation in phase contrast. Figures were drawn with a camera lucida.

## Terminology

Chaetotaxy schemes in *Entomobrya* follow Szeptycki (1979), Jordana and Baquero (2005) and Jordana (2012). Symbols used in dorsal chaetotaxy schemes are: open circle in the figures stands for the presence of large mesochaetae or macrochaetae that could be absent in male and juvenile specimens but present in females, closed circle stands for macrochaetae that are always present, black chaetae-like drawings to sensilla, large black circles with a cross line to pseudopores, long chaetae to bothriotracha.

Abbreviations used: Abd = abdominal segment; Ant = antennal segment; as = sensilla; mc = mesochaeta(e); Mc = macrochaeta(e); psp = pseudopore; Th = thoracic segment; **MNCN** = National Museum of Natural Sciences at Madrid, Spain; **MZUN** = Museum of Zoology, University of Navarra, Spain.

## Results

### Family Hypogastruridae Börner, 1906

#### *Ceratophysella* sp.

**Material studied.** Cueva del Gato, twilight zone, 27-III-2016, 1 ♀

The single individual collected apparently represents an undescribed species similar to *C. norensis* Cassagnau, 1965, characterized by A-type of chaetotaxy (p1 chaeta shorter than p2 chaeta on Abd IV), dens with 6 chaetae, the basal chaeta more than twice as long as the others, retinaculum with 4+4 teeth, tibiotarsi with one pointed tenent hair, claw with one internal tooth and two lateral teeth, filament of empodium 2/3 as long as the inner edge of claw, Ant IV with trilobed apical bulb and 7 thin sensilla, slender anal spines 1.5 times the long of the claws and 1.8 mm length. The species is dark blue and does not show characters typically present in cave-adapted species.

Additional material is needed to confirm the identity of the species.

#### *Hypogastrura* sp.

**Material studied.** Cueva del Gato, twilight zone, 27-III-2016, 1 juv.

The single individual collected appears to represent a new species similar to *H. vernalis* (Carl, 1901), characterized by tibiotarsi with one slightly knobbed tenent hair, empodium with broad basal lamella, dorso-lateral parts of Th II–III with m6 chaeta, Ant IV with trilobed apical bulb and 7 sensillae, dens with 6–7 chaetae, 2.7 times as long as mucro, PAO nearly the same size as an ommatidium, anal spines minute, on high papillae, coarse body granulation (8 granules between the p1 chaetae of Abd V) and 1 mm length. The species is grey-blue and does not show characters typically present in cave adapted species.

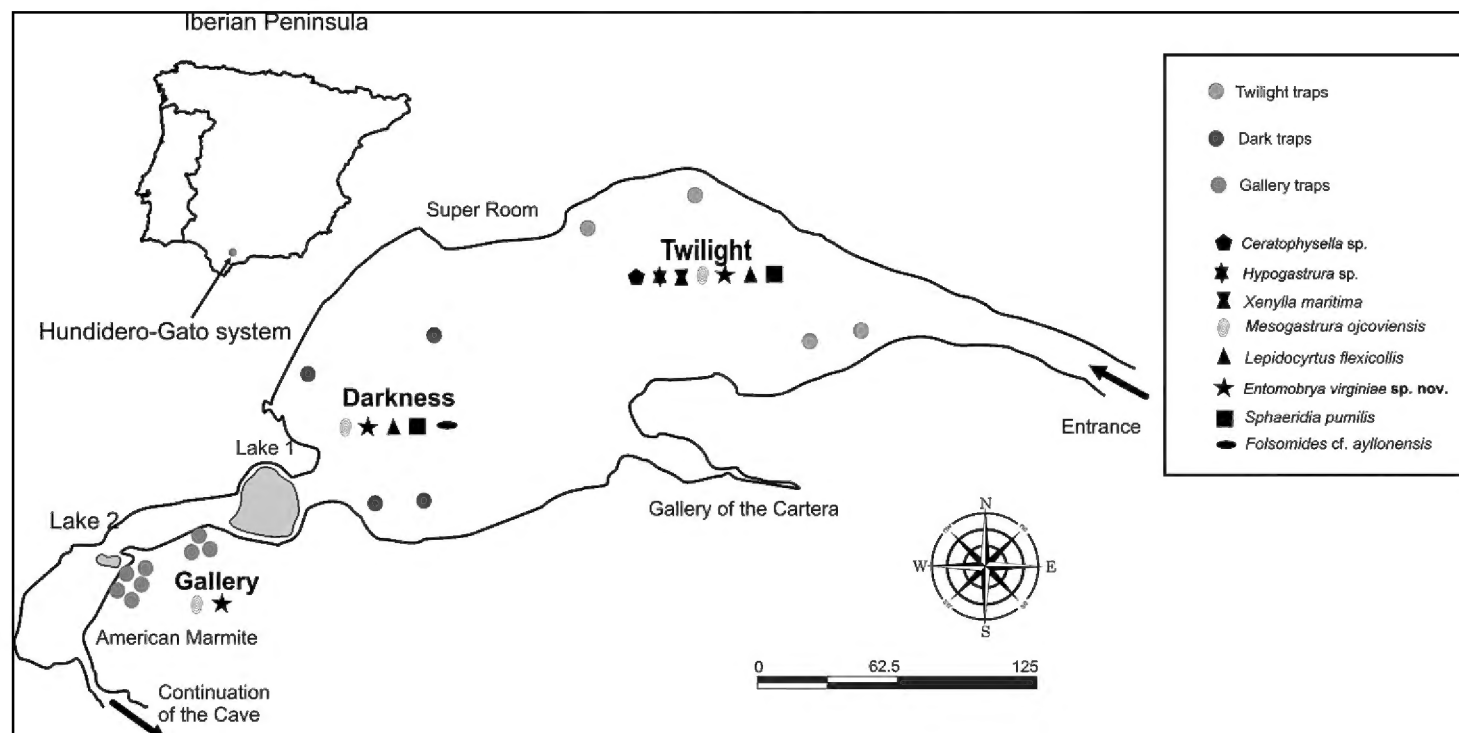
Additional material is needed to confirm the identity of the species.

#### *Mesogastrura ojcoviensis* (Stach, 1919)

New Sierra de Grazalema (Málaga) record.

**Material studied.** Cueva del Gato, twilight zone, 27-III-2016, 16 ex; dark zone, 14-IV-2016, 1 ex, 13-XI-2016, 2 ex, 4-X-2018, 25 ex; cave galleries, 14-IV-2016, 1 ex, 30-IX-2016, 1 ex.

Edaphic and troglophilous, guanophilous species. This is a common European species in the caves of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) and the Balearic Islands (Jordana et al. 1997).



**Figure 1.** Topography of Hundedero-Gato system and locations where the Collembola were sampled. Modified from Guerrero Sánchez (2015). In brown, the twilight pitfall traps, in blue, the darkness pitfall traps and in red, gallery traps (five on guano and three on ground without guano). The different species that appear in each area are represented with their own symbol in the legend.

### *Xenylla maritima* Tullberg, 1869

New Sierra de Grazalema (Málaga) record.

**Material studied.** Cueva del Gato, twilight zone, 27-III-2016, 3 ex, 16-VIII-2018, 1 ex.

This is a cosmopolitan species known to occur in dry habitats, surface leaf litter or lichens on rocks (Thibaud et al. 2004). May appear in the mesovoid shallow substratum or in caves accidentally.

### Family Isotomidae Schäffer, 1896

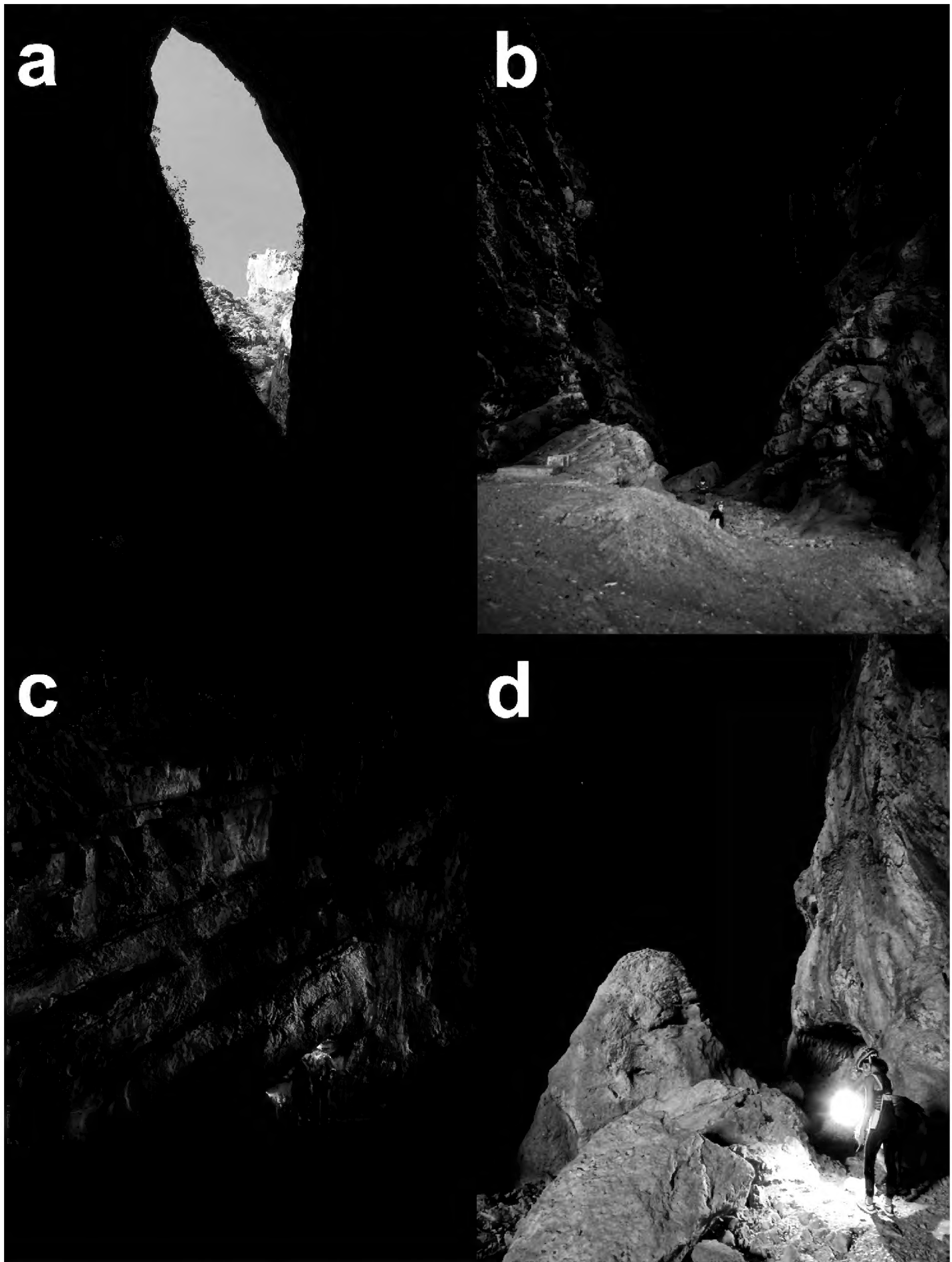
#### *Folsomides* cf. *ayllonensis* Simón & Lucíañez, 1990

New Sierra de Grazalema (Málaga) record.

**Material studied.** Cueva del Gato, dark zone, 30-IX-2016, 1 ex.

The species lacks pigment, but has 5+5 eyes. The juvenile (0.5 mm) examined differ from *F. ayllonensis*, as original description (Simón and Lucíañez 1990) and notes made by Fjellberg (1993), in having an oval postantennal organ, 1.7–1.8 as long as omma (>2 in *F. ayllonensis*), and in having three posterior chaetae on dens (two in *F. ayllonensis*).





**Figure 2.** Hundidero Gato cave **a** exterior view from Hundidero **b** Hundidero entrance **c, d** dark zone, making direct captures (Photo by Miguel de Felipe).

The physical distance ( $\approx 690$  km) and morphological differences between the Grazalema and Ayllón populations suggest they may represent distinct species, but additional material from Sierra de Grazalema will be needed to determine if the morphological differences noted here are fixed.

## Family Entomobryidae Schäffer, 1896

### *Entomobrya virginiae* Arbea, sp. nov.

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Figs 3–15, Tables 1, 2

**Type locality.** Sistema Hundidero-Gato, Benaolán-Montejaque, Málaga (Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park, Spain), 36°43'39"N, 5°14'19"W, 558 m a.s.l.

**Type material.** *Holotype* female on slide, Sistema Hundidero-Gato, Benaolán-Montejaque, Málaga (Spain), dark zone, 23-VIII-2018, leg. Virginia García López; 80 paratypes, same data as holotype: 12 females, 4 males and 4 juveniles on slide (11 from twilight and 9 from dark zone) and 60 ex. in a tube with ethyl alcohol (20 from twilight and 40 from dark zone). Deposited in MNCN (holotype and paratypes in slides) and MZUN (paratypes in alcohol).

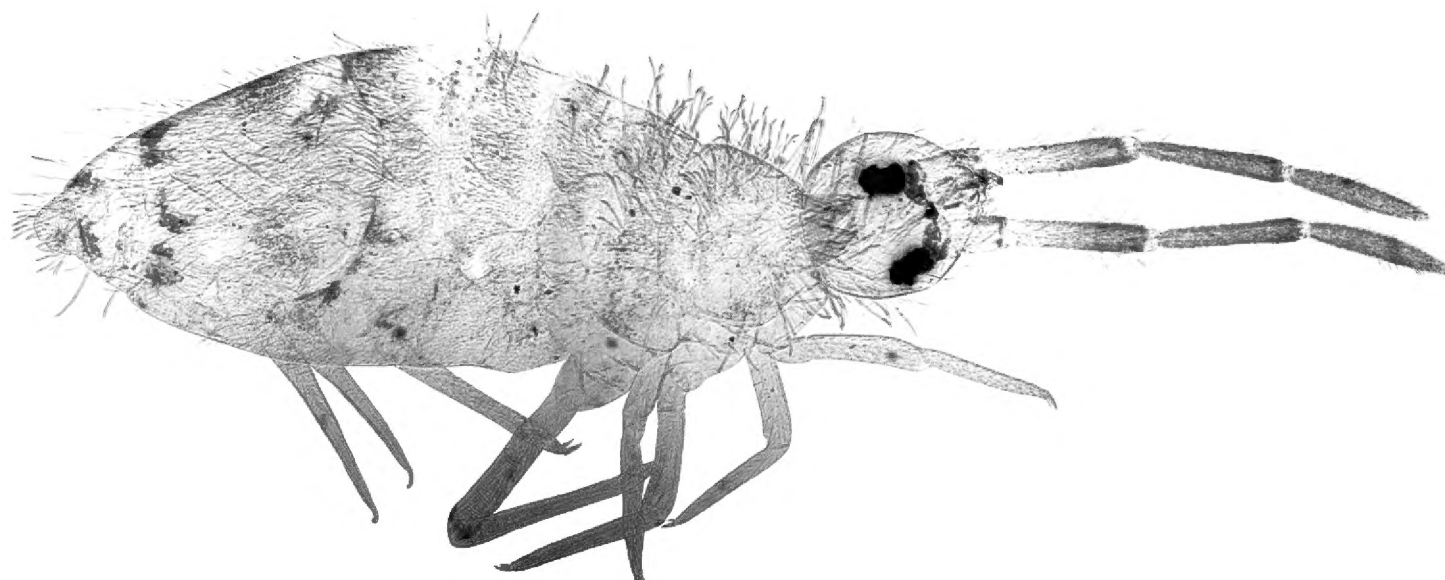
**Etymology.** The name is dedicated to Virginia García López, who captured the specimens.

**Description.** *Body* length 1.80 mm, excluding antennae (mean 16 ex., Table 1). Without dimorphism in colour; ground colour white or very light blue, with blue pigment on lateral body (all segments), dorsolateral segments Th II to Abd V, as two not complete stripes wider on posterior tergites, a central patch on Abd III with a truncated cone shape, other central patches on Abd I–II, and transversal bands on posterior tergites Th II–Abd III in many specimens; head with pigment on posterior lateral eyes and a dorsal V-shaped patch; on legs, pigment on distal femur and lateral tibiotarsus; antennae with pigment on Ant I tip and whole Ant II–IV (Fig. 3). Simplified Mc formula (Jordana and Baquero 2005) H1-H2-H3-H4-H5/T1-T2/A1-A2/A3-A4-A5/A6-A7-A8-A9-A10 in adult females: 3-2-0-3-2/2-4/2-3/1-2-1/0-4-3-2-2.

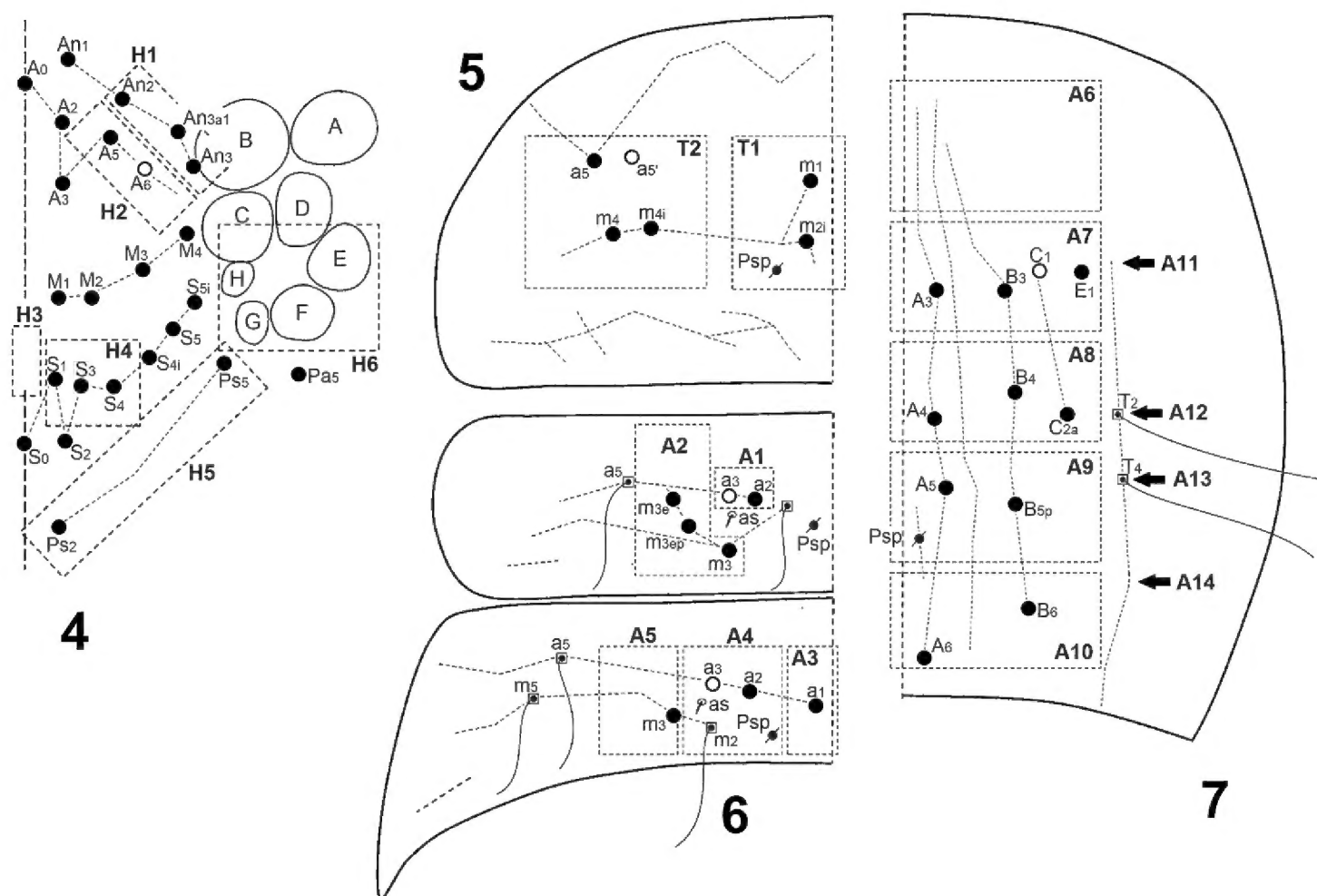
**Head.** Eight eyes, GH smaller than EF. Antennae length 1.08 mm, 3.13 times the length of the head ( $n = 16$ , Table 1); Ant IV with apical vesicle simple (Fig. 10) (slightly bilobed in some specimens); relative length of Ant I/II/III/IV = 1/2.38/2.42/2.43 (Table 1). Labrum with 4/5,5,4 chaetae; prelabral chaetae ciliated, and labral chaetae smooth. The labium has MR\*ELL ciliated Mc; R\* half as long as M; the remaining labial Mc are smooth. The maxillary palp has three sublobal chaetae. The papilla E has a lateral process reaching the end of the papilla (Fig. 9). In the dorsal head chaetotaxy (Fig. 4), the H1 area has three Mc: An2, An3e1 and An3, and the H2 area with two Mc: A5 and A6 (sometimes absent or as mc in male and juvenile specimens); Mc series M with M1–M4; the H3 area without Mc S'0; the H4 area with S1, S3 and S4 Mc, and the H5 area with Ps2 and Ps5 Mc. There are four chaetae on the ocular well: p, q, r and s.

**Thorax** (Fig. 5). Th II has two Mc: m1 and m2i, on the T1 area; the T2 area has four Mc: m4, m4i, a5 and a5' (sometimes absent or as mc in male of juvenile specimens). Th III has complete basal chaetotaxy: a1–a7, p1–p6, m6–m7.

**Abdomen** (Figs 6, 7). The Abd II has two Mc on area A1: a2 and a3 (sometimes absent or as mc in male or juvenile specimens) and three Mc on area A2: m3, m3ep and m3e. Abd. III has 1, 2 and 1 Mc on areas A3, A4 and A5, respectively: a1, a2, a3 (some-



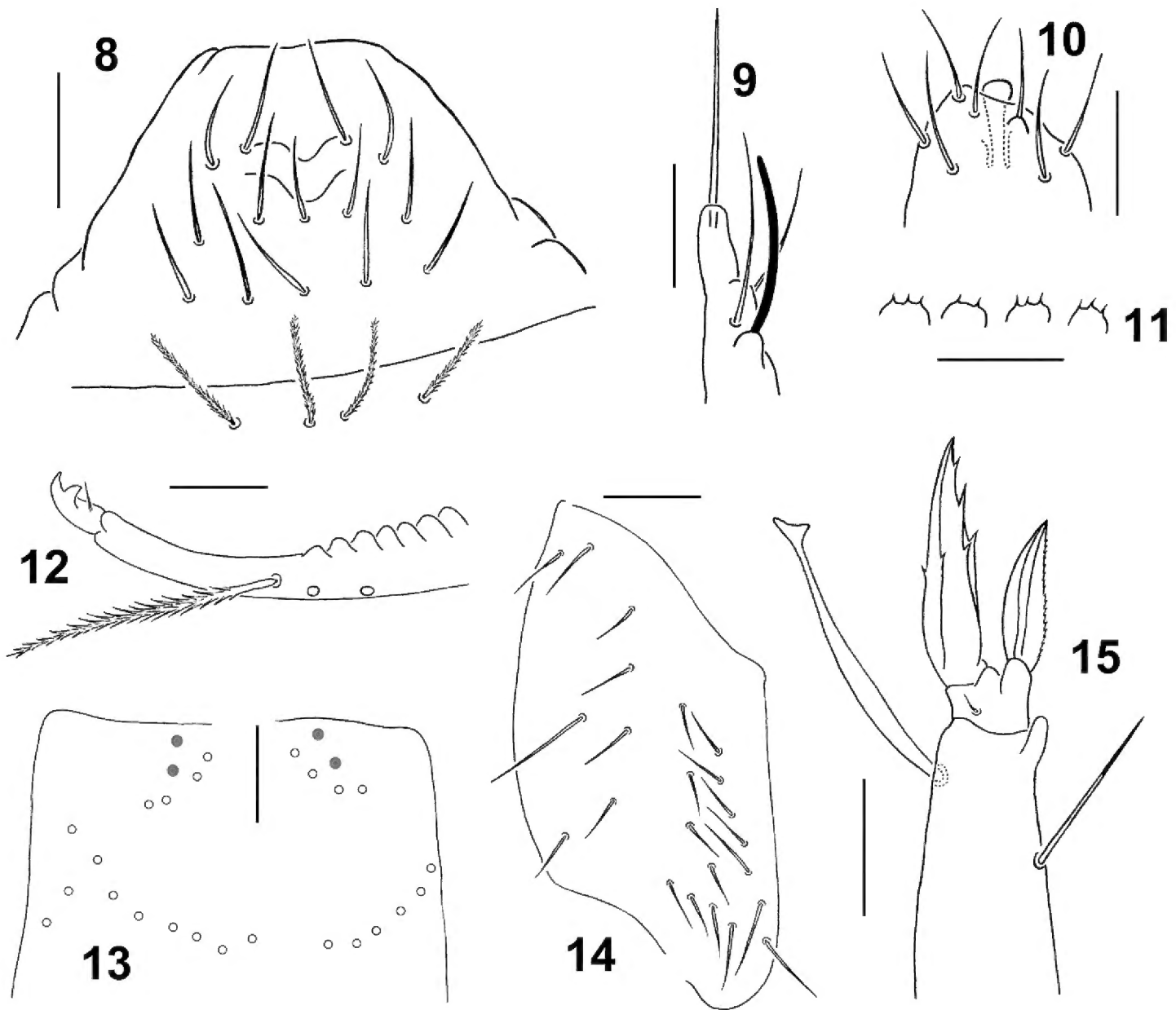
**Figure 3.** *Entomobrya virginiae* Arbea, sp. nov. Habitus.



**Figures 4–7.** *Entomobrya virginiae* Arbea, sp. nov. **4** head chaetotaxy **5** Th II chaetotaxy **6** Abd II–III chaetotaxy **7** Abd IV chaetotaxy. Symbols: open circle = Mc that could be absent in male and juvenile specimens but present in females; closed circle = Mc that are always present; black chaetae-like = sensilla; black circles with a cross line = pseudopores; long chaetae = bothriotricha.

times absent or as mc in male or juvenile specimens) and m3. Abd. IV with 11+11 central Mc: A3–A6, B3–B6, C1 (sometimes absent), C2a and E1 (Fig. 7). The trichobothria on Abd IV at the levels T2 and T4. Length ratio of Abd IV/III = 3.78 ( $n = 16$ , Table 1). Length of manubrium and dens 0.35 and 0.43 mm, respectively ( $n = 16$ , Table 1). Manubrial plate with four chaetae and two pseudopores (Fig. 13). Mucro with teeth similar in size, mucronal spine reaching tip of subapical tooth (Fig. 12).





**Figures 8–15.** *Entomobrya virginiae* Arbea, sp. nov. **8** labrum **9** labial papilla E **10** tip of Ant IV **11** labral papillae **12** tip of dens and mucro **13** manubrial plate (open circles = Mc; gray circles = pseudopores) **14** trochanteral organ **15** claw and empodium of leg III; Scale bars: 0.02 mm (**8**, **12–15**), 0.01 mm (**9–11**).

**Legs.** Trochanteral organ with 15–16 smooth chaetae in V-shaped and 7–8 lateral smooth chaetae (Fig. 14). Tibiotarsus not subsegmented, without smooth chaetae, except for smooth terminal chaeta on legs III. Claw with four inner teeth: paired at 53–58% (one of them larger and forward), first unpaired at 70% from basis, and the last one closer than 90%; dorsal teeth at the level of lateral teeth (Fig. 15). Empodium lanceolate, with serrated external lamella in leg III. Tenent hair clavate, longer than claw.

**Remarks.** For the identification of the species of *Entomobrya* we must consider a combination of colour pattern and dorsal macrochaetotaxy. It has been shown that species with the same colour pattern can have a different chaetotaxy (Jordana and Baquero 2005). On the other hand, species with differences in color pattern can correspond with species-level genetic divergence without any obvious differences in chaetotaxy (Katz et al. 2015b). If the macrochaetotaxy of Th II/Abd II/Abd III is considered simultaneously, twelve species of the genus share a similar simplified formula for these tergites: 2-3/2-3/1-2-1 in *E. atrocincta* Schött, 1896, *E. maroccana* Baquero & Jordana, 2008, *E. melitensis* Stach, 1963, *E. numidica* Baquero, Hamra-Kroua & Jordana, 2009, *E. vergarensis* Baquero, Arbea & Jordana,

**Table 1.** Measurements of *E. virginiae* sp. nov. (in micrometers), average from 16 specimens.

	Holotype	Mean	Min.	Max.
Ant I	129	131	87	179
Ant II	308	312	225	469
Ant III	326	317	230	437
Ant IV	313	319	253	437
Ant	1076	1078	795	1522
Head	377	344	267	446
Ant/Head ratio	2,85	3,13	2,54	3,81
Th II	230	216	161	322
Th III	170	144	92	184
Abd I	175	123	55	175
Abd II	170	161	92	221
Abd III	156	134	74	184
Abd IV	533	486	377	671
Abd IV/III ratio	3,42	3,78	2,80	5,60
Abd V	138	112	92	138
Abd VI	87	76	51	97
Body	2036	1795	1353	2323
Manubrium	368	347	285	483
Dens	469	430	354	561
Claw	77	71	58	86
Empodium	47	47	37	58
Tenent hair	85	79	63	86

2010, *E. fainae* Baquero & Jordana, 2018 and *E. benaventii* Rueda & Jordana, 2020; 2-4/2-3/1-2-1 in five species described by Baquero and Jordana (2018) from the Canary Islands, *E. grimanesae*, *E. achuteygai*, *E. cf. quinquelineata*, *E. guayarminae* and *E. gazmirae*; of these twelve species, only *E. melitensis*, *E. vergarensis*, *E. fainae* and the females of *E. atrocincta sensu* Katz et al., 2015a, and *E. benaventii* have a colour pattern similar to the new species; but the new species is the only one with Mc a5' on Th II in females. The colour pattern of the new species could also be considered similar to that of *E. multifasciata*, *E. atteneri* and females of *E. nigrocincta*, which have a different macrochaetotaxy formula for the Th II (Mc a5' present in females of the new species vs. absent in others) and Abd II tergites (2–2 in *E. multifasciata*, 2–4 in *E. atteneri*, 1–2 in *E. nigrocincta* vs. 2–3 in the new species). Table 2 shows the differences that separate these species from the *E. virginiae* sp. nov.

***Lepidocyrtus flexicollis* Gisin, 1965**

New Sierra de Grazalema (Málaga) record.

**Material studied.** Cueva del Gato. 9-VIII-2018, 2 ex. in twilight and 11 ex. in dark zone; 16-VIII-2018, 4 ex. in twilight and 11 ex. in dark zone; 23-VIII-2018, 3 ex. in twilight zone; 30-VIII-2018, 2 ex. in dark zone; 16-IX-2018, 8 ex. in dark zone; 20-IX-2018, 16 ex. in twilight zone; 4-X-2018, 25 ex. in twilight and 39 ex. in dark zone.

Known species from the Canary Islands and the southeastern part of the Iberian Peninsula. This troglophilous species is relatively common in subterranean habitats (Arbea 2013).

**Table 2.** Differences of *E. virginiae* sp. nov. among the similar species of *Entomobrya* by colour pattern and/or macrochaetotaxy of Th II and Abd II–III tergites. The species share: Mc S’0 on H3 area of head absent; Th II with 2 Mc on T1 area; Abd III with 1/1 Mc on A3/A5 areas; Abd IV without unpair chaetae on A7 and A9 areas and the trichobothrium at the level T2 and T4. U = unknown character. Differences with *E. virginiae* sp. nov. in bold. References: 1, Christiansen and Bellinger (1998); 2, Jordana (2012); 3, Katz et al. (2015a); 4, Baquero and Jordana (2018); 5, Rueda and Jordana (2020).

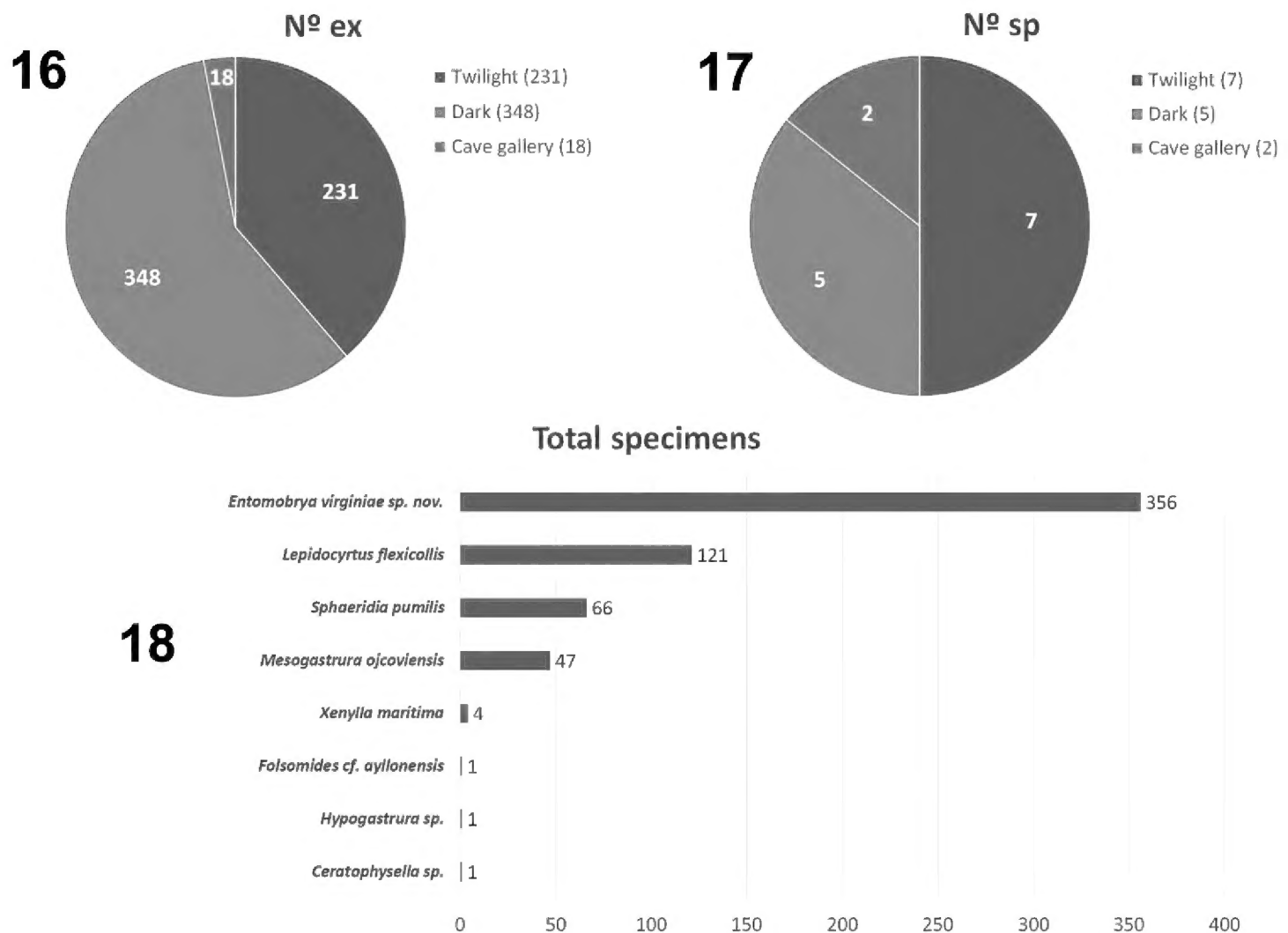
	<i>E. achuteygai</i>	<i>E. atrocincta</i> Europe	<i>E. atrocincta</i> North America	<i>E. atteneri</i>	<i>E. benavenii</i>	<i>E. fainae</i>	<i>E. gazminae</i>	<i>E. grimanesae</i>	<i>E. guayariniae</i>	<i>E. maroccana</i>	<i>E. melitensis</i>	<i>E. multifasciata</i>	<i>E. nigrocincta</i>	<i>E. numidica</i>	<i>E. cf. quinquelineata</i> Canary Islands	<i>E. vergarensis</i>	<i>E. virginiae</i> sp. nov.
Ch.1 H1 (Head) An2–An3	3	<b>2</b>	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	U	3	3	3	3	3	3
Ch.2 H2 A5–A7	2	<b>1</b>	1(2)	2–3	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	2	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	U	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	2
Ch.3 H4 S1–S3–S4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	<b>2</b>	U	3(2)	<b>2</b>	3	3	3	3
Ch.4 H5 Ps2–Ps3–Ps5	2	2(3)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	U	2	2	<b>3</b>	2	<b>3</b>	2
Ch.5 Labral papillae: smooth papillae (1), with some projections (2)	2	<b>1</b>	2	2	2	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	2	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ch.6 Length of lateral process subequal to labial papilla E (1) or shorter than labial papilla E (2)	<b>2</b>	U	U	1	1	1	<b>2</b>	1	1	U	U	1	U	U	<b>2</b>	U	1
Ch.7 eyes G&H size = E&F (1), < E&F (2)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	<b>1</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ch.8 apical antennal retractile bulb absent (0), lobe simple (1), bilobed (2)	<b>2</b>	1	1–2	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	1(0)	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	1	<b>2</b>	1–2	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	1
Ch.9 T2 chaetae number a5, m4–m5	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	4(3)
Ch.10 T2 chaeta a5’	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1(0)
Ch.11 Claw internal teeth 3(3), 4(4)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	<b>3</b>	4	4	4	4	4	4
Ch.12 Claw dorsal tooth absent (0), basal (1), internal teeth level (2)	<b>1</b>	2	2	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	2	<b>1</b>	2	2	2	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	2	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	2	2
Ch.13 A1 Abd II a2–a3	2	2	2(1)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	<b>1</b>	2	2	2	2
Ch.14 A2 Abd II m3 series chaetae number	3	3	2(3)	<b>4</b>	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2–3	<b>2</b>	3	3	3	3
Ch.15 A4 Abd III above m2 chaetae number	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	<b>1</b>	2	2	2	2
Ch.16 A6 Abd IV A1–D1 chaetae number	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	0	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ch.17 A7 Abd IV A2–E1 chaetae number	4	4	1(4)	4	3	3	4	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	2–3	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2(3)</b>	3	3–4
Ch.18 A8 unpair chaeta A04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	0
Ch.19 A8 Abd IV A4a–C2a chaetae number	3	3	3	3	3	<b>4</b>	3	3	3	3	<b>4</b>	3	3	3	3–4	<b>5</b>	3
Ch.20 A9 Abd IV A5–B5 chaetae number	2	<b>3</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ch.21 A10 Abd IV A6–B6 chaetae number	2	<b>3</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ch.22 Manubrial plate chaetae number	<b>5</b>	3–4	3–4	4–6	U	4–6	<b>6–7</b>	4	4	U	4	4	4	4	3–4	4	4
Ch.23 Sexual dimorphism in colour present (1) or absent (0)	U	0	<b>1</b>	0	<b>1</b>	0	U	0	U	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0
Number of differences in relation to <i>E. virginiae</i> sp. nov.	4	5	1	3	5	4	5	3	4	5	5	2	8	5	5	5	–
References	4	2	1,3	4	5	4	4	4	4	2	2	2,4	2,4	2	4	2	

Family Sminthurididae Börner, 1906

*Sphaeridia pumilis* (Krausbauer, 1898)

New Sierra de Grazalema (Málaga) record.

**Material studied.** Cueva del Gato. 9-VIII-2018, 21 ex. in twilight zone; 16-IX-2018, 23 ex. in dark zone; 20-IX-2018, 6 ex. in twilight zone; 4-X-2018, 5 ex. in twilight and 11 ex. in dark zone.



**Figures 16–18.** Diversity of Collembola in Gato cave **16** total number of Collembola specimens recorded **17** number of Collembola taxa recorded **18** abundance of eight species of Collembola collected.

This is a cosmopolitan species widely distributed in Europe and North America. Occurs on the surface and in upper layers of different moist soils and in their low vegetation. Occasionally appears in caves from Spain (Jordana and Beruete 1983) and other European caves.

## Discussion

The number of springtails collected is higher in dark zone (58% of all Collembola collected), but the twilight zone proved to be the most richness – of the eight species recorded in this study, we recorded seven in the twilight and only five in the dark zone (Figs 16, 17). The troglophilous species *Ceratophysella* sp., *Hypogastrura* sp. and *Xenylla maritima* were recorded from only the twilight zone at the cave entrance (Fig. 1).

Four of the eight species were represented by only one to four specimens (Fig. 18). The high number of individuals is attributable to two species, *Entomobrya virginiae* sp. nov., for which 356 specimens (59.6% of all springtail specimens collected during this study) were collected from all zones of the cave, and *Lepidocyrtus flexicollis* with 121 specimens. The next two most abundant species were *Sphaeridia pumilis*, with 66 specimens (11% of all Collembola collected), and *Mesogastrura ojcoviensis*, with 47 specimens (7.9% of all Collembola collected).

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